

FISCAL NOTE

SB 2485 - HB 2738

February 10, 2000

SUMMARY OF BILL:

1. Directs the Department of Education to:
 - Use existing resources to inform teachers about current strategies and methods for reading instruction and assessment;
 - Expand teachers' professional development opportunities to address assessment strategies appropriate for students in grades K-3;
 - Make certain that the needs of poor readers in middle and high schools are addressed; and
 - Report annually to the Joint Oversight Committee on Education regarding what actions are being taken to implement these directives.
2. Directs the State Board of Education and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) to address whether teacher candidates in Tennessee receive adequate training in teaching reading. The State Board would revise teacher training and certification requirements as needed to ensure the adequate training of such teachers.
3. Directs the State Board of Education and THEC to consider development of an information center at a state university for research and information on reading for preschool through 12th grade teachers. The State Board and THEC would be required to report at least annually to the Joint Oversight Committee on Education on the implementation of these directives.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000

Since it is unknown how many hours of training teachers should receive regarding assessment strategies, or the cost to specifically address the needs of poor readers in middle and high schools, the increase in state expenditures cannot be determined; however, it is assumed that such a requirement statewide would result in a cost exceeding \$100,000.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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